

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04333 250853Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

CU-04 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 NSF-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 FEA-01

INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /119 W

-----047909 250902Z /10

P R 250815Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8552

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, AR

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF
BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

REF: STATE 200506,

1. EMBOFF MET WITH J.S.F. BOTHA, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
MULTILATERAL RELATIONS, DFA, ON AUGUST 24 TO REVIEW ISSUE
OF COORDINATION OF BIOMASS IN IOC. EMBOFF PROVIDED COPIES
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04333 250853Z

OF ARGENTINE AIDE MEMOIRE AND U.S. REPLY. BOTHA STATED
SAG HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY ARGENTINES ALONG LINES
OF THEIR APPROACH TO US.

2. BOTHA STATED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE THE
IOC TO COORDINATE THE BIOMASS ANTARCTICA PROGRAM POSES
MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR SAG. AS USG AWARE, A SENEGALESE

RESOLUTION DESIGNED TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA FROM IOC
FAILED BY ONLY TWO VOTES AT IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING IN APRIL. FURTHER ATTEMPT TO CHANGE IOC
STATUTES SO SOUTH AFRICA CAN BE EXPELLED IS EXPECTED
TO BE MADE AGAIN AT IOC GENERAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER
WHERE AFRO-ASIAN BLOC WILL BE MORE STRONGLY REPRESENTED.
BOTHAS ALSO NOTED THAT, UNDER INSTRUCTION OF UNESCO
RESOLUTION, IOC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS BEEN REFUSING
TO PROVIDE ANY IOC DOCUMENTS TO SAG AND IS NOT EVEN
ADVISING SAG OF IOC MEETINGS (WHICH THEY ATTEND ANYWAY).
BOTHAS STATED THAT IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, SAG BELIEVES IOC IS
WELL ON ROAD TO BEING POLITICIZED AND THAT POLITICAL
FACTORS ARE LIKELY TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER IN IOC OVER
NEXT FEW YEARS IN SPITE OF BEST EFFORTS OF WESTERN NATIONS
TO AVOID THIS. THEREFORE, SAG IS VERY RELUCTANT TO SEE
BIOMASS PROGRAM COORDINATED THRU IOC. HE NOTED THAT
SINCE IOC SECRETARIAT REFUSES TO COMMUNICATE WITH SAG,
SOUTH AFRICA WOULD APPARENTLY LIKewise BE SHUT OUT OF
COMMUNICATIONS ON BIOMASS IF IOC COORDINATES PROGRAM.
SAG WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME COORDINATION MECHANISM
ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE IOC BUT IS UNSURE AT THIS POINT
WHETHER ARGENTINA PROPOSAL IS WORKABLE AND PARTICULARLY
HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST. BOTHAS DID EXPRESS VIEW THAT
SCAR HAS BETTER SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL TO HANDLE PROGRAM
THAN IOC.

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04333 250853Z

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BOTHAS SAID NOTHING TO INDICATE
SAG'S PARTICIPATION IN BIOMASS PROGRAM MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED
IF COORDINATION ASSIGNED TO IOC/SOC, FACT THAT
IOC SECRETARIAT IS UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM UNESCO NOT
TO COMMUNICATE WITH SAG WILL CERTAINLY COMPLICATE
ADMINISTRATION OF BIOMASS PROGRAM AND NECESSITATE SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE SAG RECEIVES BIOMASS MATERIALS.
END COMMENT.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTARCTIC TREATY, RESEARCH, OCEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR04333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770307-0038
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770823/aaaaatgy.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 875f7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 200506
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1486626
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTARCTIC TREATY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN
TAGS: TGEN, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/875f7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009